

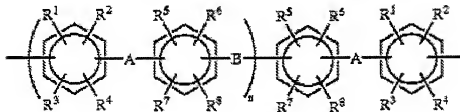
REMARKS

Claims 1, 3 and 5 have been amended to recite that the aromatic-polyether-type ultrahigh molecular weight polymer consists essentially of at least one structural unit selected from those represented by claimed formulas (1) and (2). Entry of this Amendment is respectfully requested. Claims 1-11 are pending.

Response to Claim Rejections Under §103

Claims 1-11 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0188097 to Goto et al. Applicants respectfully traverse.

The Examiner cites Goto as disclosing a polymer having the following general formula (1), at paragraph [0014].



In this regard, Goto discloses at paragraph [0064], that the polymer of Goto's invention may be a homopolymer comprising only the repeating unit represented by the general formula (1) or a copolymer comprising the repeating unit (1) and other repeating units.

However, Goto discloses at paragraph [0067] that "[t]he copolymer comprising the repeating unit (1) and the unit (A) can be sulfonated to produce a proton-conductive membrane material." This disclosure is consistent with Claims 5-7 of Goto. In other words, Goto does not disclose or suggest the technical idea that the use of a homopolymer comprising only a repeating

unit represented by the general formula (1) as the protonconductive membrane material, as presently claimed.

In addition, Goto discloses at paragraph [0089] that the copolymer comprises a large amount of the unit 1, namely, preferably from 60 to 97 mol%. In contrast, the aromatic-polyether-type ultrahigh molecular weight polymer of the presently claimed invention consists essentially of at least one structural unit selected from those represented by the formulas (1) and (2), and thus, differs from the copolymer of Goto.

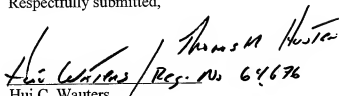
Moreover, Goto discloses at paragraph [0067] that the unit (A), not the unit (1) is sulfonated. In contrast, according to the presently claimed invention, an acid group is introduced to an aromatic-polyether-type ultrahigh molecular weight polymer consisting essentially of at least one structural unit selected from those represented by formulas (1) and (2). Thus, the technical ideas for the mode of the introduction of the acid group are different.

Accordingly, Goto fails to render obvious the present claims. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,


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